



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,923	01/09/2002	Kevin J. McKernan	12130-007001	4511
26161	7590	06/22/2004	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC 225 FRANKLIN ST BOSTON, MA 02110			NAFF, DAVID M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1651	

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/042,923	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MCKERNAN, KEVIN J.	
	<b>Examiner</b> David M. Naff	<b>Art Unit</b> 1651	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

Art Unit: 1651

***Election/Restrictions***

Claims in the application are 1-48.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under  
35 U.S.C. 121:

- 5 I. Claims 1-34, drawn to method of isolating a first species of  
nucleic acid molecule, classified in class 435, subclass  
91.1.
- II. Claims 32-34, drawn to a method for isolating a nucleic acid  
molecule, classified in class 536, subclass 22.1.
- 10 III. Claims 35-40, drawn to a composition for isolating nucleic  
acids, classified in class 435, subclass 195.
- IV. Claims 41-45, drawn to a composition for isolating nucleic  
acids, classified in class 435, subclass 174.
- V. Claims 46-48, drawn to a kit for isolating nucleic acids,  
15 classified in class 435, subclass 6.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

The compositions of inventions III and IV and kit of invention V  
can be used in a method other than required by the methods of  
inventions I and II. The composition of invention III can be used in  
20 a method where a first species of nucleic acid is not isolated, where  
there is no simultaneous addition to produce a first combination and  
where there is no separation of carrier containing bound nucleic acid  
to produce a second mixture as in claim 1 of invention I.

Additionally, the composition of invention III does not require a  
25 carrier that reversibly binds a nucleic acid as required in the method

Art Unit: 1651

of invention II. The composition of invention IV can be used for isolating nucleic acids from a medium where cells are not present and lysed as required in the methods of invention I and II, or composition IV can be used in assaying a nucleic acid without isolating a nucleic acid as required by the methods of inventions I and II. The kit of invention V can be used in a method where there is not simultaneous addition as in the method of invention I, or the kit can be used in a method where the first and second compositions are added at the same time rather than separately as in the methods of inventions I and II. Additionally, the carrier of the first composition of the kit that can cause lysis of cells is not required to reversibly bind a nucleic acid as in the method of invention II.

The methods of inventions I and II require different steps such that each can be performed without the other.

Compositions III and IV are different from each other such that each can be used without using the other. Composition III does not require a carrier that reversibly binds as required by the composition of invention IV, and the composition of invention IV does not have to be formulated to cause lysis of cells as required by the composition of invention III. Compositions III and IV can be used without using the kit of invention V, and the kit can be used without using the compositions of inventions III and IV. The compositions of inventions III and IV do not have to be in kit form, and do not require first and second compositions. The composition of invention III does not have

Art Unit: 1651

to be a first composition as in the kit and the composition of invention IV does not have to be a second composition as in the kit.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their  
5 different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

10 The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the  
15 provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116;  
20 amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable,  
25 the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in  
30 scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the  
35 process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply

Art Unit: 1651

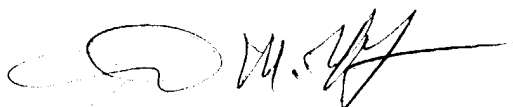
where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

**Conclusion**

5 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Naff whose telephone number is 571-272-0920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, 10 the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) 15 system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private 20 PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David M. Naff  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1651